

Claims

I claim:

- 1 1. A method for treating a patient suffering from an autoimmune disorder,  
2 said method comprising administering an effective amount of an antibody  
3 composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises anti-idiotype antibodies,  
4 or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and inhibit self-reactive  
5 pathogenic autoantibodies present in the patient.
- 1 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disorder is  
2 characterized by the destruction of patients' cells by autoantibodies.
- 1 3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said anti-idiotype antibodies are  
2 immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present or antibodies associated with an  
3 autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising systemic lupus  
4 erythematosus, masthenia gravis, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.
- 1 4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said anti-idiotype antibodies are  
2 immunoreactive with anti-DNA antibodies.
- 1 5. The method, according to claim 4, wherein said anti-idiotype antibodies are  
2 immunoreactive with idiotypic determinants present on said anti-DNA antibodies,  
3 wherein said idiotypic determinants are selected from the group consisting of F4, 3L,  
4 8.12, and 16/6.
- 1 6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said antibody composition is  
2 administered intravenously.

1           7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein said antibody composition is  
2 administered as a dextrose saline solution.

1           8. A method for preparing an antibody composition comprising anti-idiotype  
2 antibodies, comprising the steps of:

3           (a) contacting pooled gamma globulin with a solid phase substrate, said  
4 substrate comprising an idiotypic determinant of a self-reactive pathogenic  
5 autoantibody, wherein said anti-idiotype antibodies present in said pooled gamma  
6 globulin bind to said idiotypic determinant; and

7           (b) eluting said anti-idiotype antibodies bound to said idiotypic determinant.

1           9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant is  
2 expressed on an antibody coupled to said substrate

1           10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said antibody coupled to said  
2 substrate expresses anti-DNA idiotypic determinants selected from the group  
3 consisting of F4, 3I, 8.12 and 16/6.

1           11. The method according to claim 8 further comprising washing said  
2 substrate with a suitable wash buffer prior to eluting in Step (b).

1           12. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said substrate comprises a  
2 plurality of idiotypic determinants of self-reactive pathogenic autoantibody.

1           13. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said idiotypic determinant  
2 comprises a synthetic peptide that duplicates an idiotypic determinant present on a  
3 self-reactive autoantibody.

1       14. An antibody composition, wherein said antibody composition comprises  
2       anti-idiotypic antibodies, or antigen binding fragments thereof, which can bind to and  
3       inhibit self-reactive pathogenic autoantibodies.

1       15. The antibody composition, according to claim 14, wherein said anti-  
2       idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idotypic determinants present on  
3       antibodies associated with an autoimmune disease selected from the group comprising  
4       systemic lupus erythematosus, *masthenia gravis*, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic  
5       purpura.

1       16. The antibody composition, according to claim 14, wherein said anti-  
2       idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with anti-DNA antibodies.

1       17. The antibody composition, according to claim 16, wherein said anti-  
2       idiotypic antibodies are immunoreactive with idotypic determinants present on said  
3       anti-DNA antibodies, wherein said idotypic determinants are selected from the group  
4       consisting of F4, 3I, 8.12, and 16/6.

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